

Message Text

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16

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 191524Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8622

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 14968

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS IN PK

SUBJECT: ALLEGED THIRD-COUNTRY TRANSFER TO PAKISTAN

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY PAKISTAN DIVISION HEAD ASHOK CHIB DECEMBER 19 REMINDED THE POL COUNSELOR THAT THE SECRETARY HAD RESTATED US POLICY ON THIRD-COUNTRY TRANSFERS OF US ARMS TO PAKISTAN DURING HIS LUNCHEON WITH INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH IN EARLY OCTOBER. CHIB SAID INDIA HAD PICKED UP INFORMATION THAT 70 RECONDITIONED IRANIAN P-47 TANKS HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO PAKISTAN IN EARLY JUNE. INDIA HAD SPENT SOME TIME TRYING TO CONFIRM THIS AND BELIEVED IT HAD DONE SO. IN THE BEST OF INDIA'S KNOWLEDGE, THESE TANKS WERE NOT BEING USED IN BALUCHISTAN, BUT INDIA DID NOT KNOW THEIR PRECISE LOCATION. CHIB SAID INDIA DID NOT RAISE THIS WITH IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARI DURING HIS RECENT VISIT BECAUSE IT WISHED TO CHECK WITH THE USG FIRST. CHIB REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE WAS NOT CALLING INTO QUESTION THE SECRETARY'S ASSURANCES OR RAISING THE MATTER IN TERMS OF AN ACCUSATORY CLAIM AGAINST THE USG.

2. WE HAVE A VAGUE RECOLLECTION WE CAN NOT AT THIS POINT DOCUMENT FROM OUR FILES THAT THE PAKS SENT A BUNCH OF THEIR TANKS OVER TO IRAN FOR RECONDITIONING. COULD THIS BE IT? EVEN IF IT IS, I CONSIDER IT A BIT INSULTING THAT THE INDIANS SHOULD ASK US FIRST ABOUT AN ACTION ALLEGEDLY TAKEN BY THE IRANIANS. THE PEACOCK THRONE IS STILL IN
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TEHERAN. SO IS MUCH OIL. I CONCLUDE THEY DON'T HAVE THE BALLS TO FACE UP TO THE PERSIANS ON THESE THINGS, AND CONSIDER IT ROUTINE TO PRESENT US WITH ACCUSATIONS. I WOULD ACCORDINGLY APPRECIATE A FAST

AND ACCURATE ANSWER TO THIS QUERY. IF, AS A SUSPECT, THE CHARGE IS
GROUNDLESS, I PROPOSE TO GO TO THE FOREIGN SECRETARY MYSELF AND SAY
THAT WE ARE WEARY OF THIS BEHAVIOR, AND INCREASINGLY REACT
NEGATIVELY TOWHAT IS, AFTER ALL, AN ASSERTION THAT THE ADMINISTRATION
HAD VIOLATED THE LAWS OF THE NATION, AND THE DEPARTMENT IS
SYSTEMATICALLY MAKING A LIAR OUT OF THE SECRETARY. MOREOVER, THAT
I MIGHT BE PARTY TO SUCH MICKEY MOUSE COLD WARRING.

3. I SHOULD LIKE TO TELL THE FOREIGN SECRETARY THAT HE CAN TAKE MY
WORD THAT IF WE EVER CHANGE OUR POLICY ON ARMS SUPPLIES AND TRANSFERS
HE WILL LEARN OF IT FROM ME, NOT THIRDHAND FROM SOME INDIAN SPY IN
KARACHI.

4. THE SECRETARY IS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN DESPERATE MATTERS, BUT
SOMEBODY BACK HOME OUGHT TO NOTICE THAT WE ARE LETTING THE RUMOR
CIRCUIT HOT UP OUT HERE AND TO NO CLEAR PURPOSE THAT I CAN DISCERN.
I JUST HEARD THAT THE MALDIVES HAVE TRANSFERRED EIGHTEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY TWO P.T. BOATS TO THE CEYLONSE FOR USE EITHER IN BURMA OR
THE GULF OF ADEN.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

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